

#### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 6-12 and 33-50 are pending in the present application.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of previous claim 32.

Claim 32 is cancelled.

No new matter is entered as a result of the amendments.

#### Claim Objections

Claim 4 is objected to as being of improper dependent form. Claim 4 has been cancelled thereby rendering the rejection moot.

#### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 4, 9, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bentz et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of previous claim 32 which was considered to be in condition for allowance. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as previous claim 32.

Claim 4 has been cancelled.

Claim 9, 10 and 12 depend from amended claim 1 and are now believed to be allowable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 1.

The rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bentz et al. is rendered moot by amendment.

#### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, 33 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Piras et al. in view of Bentz et al.

Claims 1, 4, 9, 10 and 12 are discussed above.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 9, 11, 33 and 35 all ultimately depend from claim 1 and are therefore believed to be patentable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 1.

The rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, 33 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Piras et al. in view of Bentz et al. is rendered moot by amendment.

#### Allowable Claims

Claims 7, 8 and 36-50 are allowed.

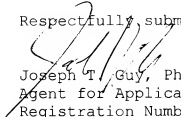
Claim 32 and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The limitations of claim 32 are now included in claim 1 thereby bringing claim 1 into condition for allowance. Claim 34 ultimately depends from claim 1.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-3, 6-12 and 33-50 are pending in the present application. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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